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MINOR MYCOLOGICAL NOTES. I.

W. A. KELLERMAN.

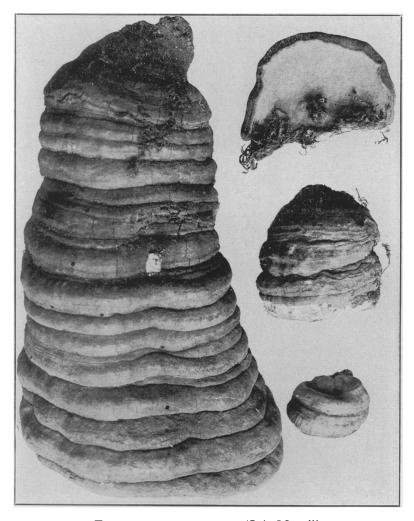
It may possibly be worth while to put on record occasional notes on fungi of more or less interest, here and there observed incidentally. These may pertain to distribution, habit, habitat, or any other single phase — but paragraph-headings will be used to enable the reader to select any note that may be of probable interest.

Puccinia Veratri.—This Rust was observed in enormous abundance in the Cheat Mountains, alt. 3,600 ft., near Cheat Bridge, Randolph Co., West Virginia. Along the Cheat River the host occurred in great quantity, and every plant noticed was affected. Usually every leaf contained the Rust, and mostly the entire surface was thoroughly blackened by the parasite.

ELFVINGIA FOMENTARIUS (FOMES FOMENTARIUS).—This Polypore is a widely distributed species, Europe, Asia, North America; said to occur on Birch and Beech. "Hab. ad Fagos abunde optimus, vegetior copiosum fomentum molle quotannis edens, minor, macrior et durior ad Betulas etc." (Saccardo). It was noticed as the commonest species (save perhaps here and there the Elfvingia megaloma (Polyporus leucophæus, or Fomes applanatus as usually recorded) in the Mountains of West Virginia. In the uncleared forest regions old trees and prostrate trunks were the conspicuous matrix for the saprophyte — but it occurred almost exclusively on the Yellow Birch, a very common tree in the section referred to. It was seen, but very rarely, also on Beech and Nyssa. The climate can perhaps as well as the host, be regarded as very agreeable to this conspicuous fungus; on numerous trunks, standing or occasionally felled, young plants and those of mature age — say twenty years — were seen. It was thought that a photograph of some of the plants might not be amiss in connection with a note-and on the page opposite is given a half-tone reproduction (Plate III) showing some young plants, one with the hymenium in view, and a sample of one of age.

LATE INFECTION OF PHYLLOSTICTA ASIMINÆ.—A quantity of this fungus was found this season coming to maturity as late as the middle of October. It had been observed in the same locality in this and previous years developing its spores at the usual time—early in the summer. A portion of the thicket of papaw bushes of considerable area was removed by plow and road scraper during the season and then left undisturbed, when young sprouts appeared in great abundance. was on these leaves, developed late in the season, that extensive infection was noticed, and careful examination showed that the

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ELFVINGIA FOMENTARIA (L.) Murrill.

(From photograph of specimens on Betula lutea, collected in the Cheat Mountains of West Virginia. Reduced to nearly one-fourth natural size.)

perithecia were full of ripe or nearly ripe spores—the usual severe frosts of September and October disturbing the life neither of host nor parasite. The perithecia were very numerous on the spots, often more abundant than the usual infection. Very many of them appeared at both the upper and lower surface of the leaves—which is not common for this species. The original description, as published by Ellis and Kellerman, was based on ma-

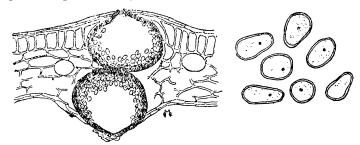


Fig. 3. Phyllosticta asiminae Ell. & Kellerm.

terial collected in July (1883), in Fairfield County, Ohio; in this the perithecia were epiphyllous, and the spores were found to be 7-9x5-6 μ . The recently collected October material showed spores with the characteristic color but mostly 10 μ in length and 6 or 7 μ in width. No figures were furnished originally and hence a sketch is presented here. The leaf section shows a perithecium situated near each epidermal surface; highly magnified outline figures of the spores appear at the right.

Rust on Muhlenbergia Diffusa. — It was stated on page 109 of this Journal that cultures had demonstrated the connection of Puccinia muhlenbergiae Arthur on Muhlenbergia mexicana and Aecidium hibisciatum Schw. on Hibiscus moscheutos (to which may be added Hibiscus militaris). But strange as it may seem, the Puccinia muhlenbergiae Arthur on Muhlenbergia diffusa, also used in the cultures (which will be reported in detail later) yielded only negative results. For the present therefore the name Puccinia hibisciata (Schw.) Kellerm. (Jour. Mycol. 9:110, May, 1903) can be used only for the Rust on Muhlenbergia mexicana, at any rate not that occurring on Muhlenbergia diffusa. Additional cultures will be instituted next season; material will be furnished to any experimenters who may care to cooperate in this interesting case.